

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to make a submission on the proposed increase in car-parking charges in Tipperary Town as part of the County-wide “harmonisation” process.

I strongly oppose applying the same parking regime to Tipperary Town as to other towns in its band. Treating towns “equally” on population alone **does not deliver equity**. Tipperary Town faces serious and continuing challenges that are not experienced in the same way by Roscrea, Templemore, Cahir, Cashel or Carrick-on-Suir.

In particular:

- Tipperary Town Centre traders must compete directly with an edge-of-town shopping centre where **parking is completely free**, a disadvantage that other banded towns do not face.
- Thousands of vehicles travel the N24 and N74 right through the heart of the town centre every day, bringing congestion, noise and air pollution into our main shopping street.

The Council-supported Tipperary Town Collaborative Town Centre Health Check (CTCHC) highlights just how fragile our town centre already is:

- Tipperary Town has an 18.6% overall vacancy rate and 31.2% retail vacancy, with 84 empty buildings (43 of them retail), indicating a very stressed town-centre core.
- 73% of town-centre users arrive by car and 62% already pay for parking, while footfall drops sharply after 5pm.
- 67% of surveyed businesses explicitly supported two-hour free parking as part of town-centre recovery; parking is seen as a necessary support, not “too cheap”.
- The CTCHC identifies heavy N24/N74 traffic, online leakage and high retail vacancy as the core problems and recommends better active travel, digital strategy and events, rather than raising the cost of access for local shoppers.
- On top of this, Tipperary Town is the only town in the County where the Irish Government has established a dedicated Revitalisation Task Force, precisely because of the scale of the challenges the town faces. In this context, increasing parking charges in Tipperary Town Centre would:
- Run directly against the evidence in the CTCHC report and the expressed views of local businesses.
- Risk further reducing footfall in an already fragile town centre and push more trade to out-of-town and online competitors.
- Undermine ongoing efforts by the community, traders and the Task Force to revive the historic core of the town.
- I therefore respectfully request that Tipperary County Council:

1. Remove Tipperary Town from the current “harmonised” banding based solely on population, and
2. Develop a tailored parking policy for Tipperary Town that reflects:
 - The free edge-of-town parking competition,
 - The heavy N24/N74 through-traffic in the town centre, and
 - The clear evidence and business mandate in favour of affordable or free short-stay parking set out in the CTCHC.

A fair, evidence-based approach to parking in Tipperary Town should support town-centre recovery, not make it harder for people to live, shop and do business here.

Yours faithfully,

Your Name

Your Address

Your Email / Phone